In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title insert the following:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/FR2005/000645, filed on March 16, 2005.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before line 11, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 7, after line 35, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 7, amend the paragraph beginning on line 36 through page 8, line 18 as follows:

~~In contrast,~~ An object of the present invention ~~proposes~~ is to provide a simple and effective method of estimating the source statistic of variable length code symbols that is integrated at the bit level.

~~It~~ An embodiment of the invention is based on European patent 1 230 736, which already proposes a method of flexible source decoding or combined source-channel coding and/or decoding implemented at the bit level. In particular, it is shown in the above patent that a turbocode type decoding technique can greatly improve performance if the first channel decoder

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of the decoder uses both the knowledge of the variable length code tree structure and the statistics associated with the branches of the tree. Depending on the source model, the useful statistic may correspond to stationary probabilities or to transition probabilities. However, all the decoding options of the above-mentioned European patent (flexible source decoding, combined source-channel coding and/or decoding with convolutional codes or turbocodes) assume that the decoder knows the source statistic perfectly, which in practice is not generally the case.

On page 8, amend the paragraph beginning on line 22 as follows:

According to an embodiment of the present invention, this is achieved by a method of combined source-channel decoding of digital data coding discrete values or symbols received by a channel decoder of a digital data decoder from a source over a transmission channel, wherein probabilities associated with said symbols are applied to a channel decoding trellis of said channel decoder, which method is characterized in that said probabilities are estimated statistically from occurrences of the symbols estimated by said decoder.

On page 10, delete the paragraph beginning on line 9 through line 12 in its entirety.

On page 10, before line 13, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 11, before line 3, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS